

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4797

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, FR

SUBJECT: MARTINIQUE SUMMIT - OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION

REF: (A) PARIS 23412; (B) STATE 214050

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OMEGA AGREEMENT REMAINS STUCK ON PROBLEM OF FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. WE UNDERSTAND GISCARD HAS BEEN GIVEN BRIEFING PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOR MARTINIQUE. IN THE EVENT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, U.S. DELEGATION MAY BE ABLE TO FOCUS HIGH LEVEL GOF ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM BY EXPRESSING CONCERN AT SLOW PACE OF FRENCH FINAL ACTION. IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF OMEGA, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CLARIFY AMBIGUITY REGARDING OMEGA COST SHARING DISCUSSED REFTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO DES LONGCHAMPS OF THE QUAI'S PACTS AND DISARMAMENT OFFICE, PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS A BRIEFING MEMORANDUM ON THE STATUS OF THE FRENCH-US OMEGA AGREEMENT IN HIS MARTINIQUE SUMMIT PORTFOLIO. WHILE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS MATERIAL WAS PREPARED ONLY AGAINST CONTINGENCY THAT U.S. MIGHT RAISE SUBJECT, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL IN EVENT SUBJECT ARISES NATURALLY DURING DISCUSSIONS OF BILATERAL MILITARY ISSUES, OR IN THE EVENT USG WISHES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUMMIT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT SLOW

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PACE OF FRENCH RATIFICATION PROCESS.

3. WE RECENTLY ASKED DES LONGCHAMPS WHEN WE COULD EXPECT COMPLETION OF FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ACTION REGARDING THE OMEGA AGREEMENT. HE RESPONDED THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS CONTINUE PUTTING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO QUAI FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AGREEMENT AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS. COUVE DE MURVILLE (FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER UNDER DE GAULLE, AND NOW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) SEEMS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN QUESTIONING THE QUAI ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS OF OMEGA WITH DES LONGCHAMPS, HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY FATE OF AGREEMENT. WE REMINDED HIM THAT ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF HAS PAST SINCE WE SIGNED OMEGA AGREEMENT IN 1973, WITH FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL BEING LAST -- IF PROLONGED -- STEP IN PERMITTING AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO FORCE. WE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO AGREEMENT AND URGED THAT GOF DO THE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE AND SPEEDY PARLIAMENTARY ACTION. DES LONGCHAMPS LISTENED, BUT DID NOT COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT OMEGA'S SNAIL'S PACE REFLECTS LOW PRIORITY THAT GOF ATTACHES TO SOLVING THIS PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN DELICATE NATURE OF GISCARD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY THAT CONSIDERS ITSELF INDEPENDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN DISCREET MANNER WITH APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS AT MARTINIQUE WITH VIEW TO CLARIFYING FRENCH INTENTIONS REGARDING OMEGA'S PARLIAMENTARY FUTURE, UNDERSCORING IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO SPEEDY COMPLETION OF THIS AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING REASONS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT FRENCH MIGHT TAKE OCCASION TO PURSUE ISSUE OF SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY BY U.S. OF SOME PARTS OF OMEGA STRUCTURE. IN THAT REGARD, EMBASSY REMINDS DEPARTMENT OF NEED TO CLARIFY QUESTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATION CONSTRUCTION COSTS DISCUSSED REFTELS.
RUSH

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